



## United States Army Recruiting Battalion

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### EAST OVER WEST IN U.S. ARMY ALL-AMERICAN BOWL

SAN ANTONIO -- East squad played as *An Army of One* when it trampled West in the Third Annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl held January 5<sup>th</sup> in San Antonio Texas. Selected for their individual strengths, 78 top high school football players from around the country came together to form the two all-star squads. East dominated in a 47-3 victory.

Two Wisconsin prep stars received the call last summer from Tom Lemming, well-known ESPN and USA Today sports contributor, announcing the high school players' nomination to play in the 2003 Army All-American Bowl. Of some 400 nominations from around the United States, only two players from Wisconsin made the cut -- Joe Thomas of Brookfield Central High School and Justin Ostrowski of Portage High School.

The U.S. Army then conducted a national selection tour to introduce America to the 78 that would ultimately play the game. Offensive tackle and tight end, Joe Thomas, made this cut and was formally invited to participate on the East squad at an invitation ceremony held December 4<sup>th</sup> at Brookfield Central High School. Cpt. Brad Knudson and Sgt. Jeffrey Lofquist were on hand to extend the invitation to Thomas at an all-school assembly coordinated by SportsLink, the Army's official game promoter.

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl was televised live on ESPN2 from the Alamodome in San Antonio on January 5, 2003.

### Army All-American Bowl More Than Just A Football Game

Like corporate America, the U.S. Army enjoys an opportunity to show its shareholders (taxpayers) what it is all about. As part of the campaign to "Reconnect with America," the U.S. Army has turned the All-American Bowl into a week-long, all-star event.

While the annual focus of the event is a football game and a showcase of prep football talent, the might of the U.S. Army is on display through several venues designed to show the public what it means to be a soldier in today's Army. Take a look at what took place.

- **Band Fest** – Members of the U.S. Army Band worked with high school musicians to improve their skills in the days leading up to the game.
- **Fan Fest** – Various Army units put their skill and equipment on display while others put the spectator in the hot seat.
  - Accession Command's Army Marksmanship Unit from Fort Benning, Ga. set fans up on a virtual shooting range
  - Mission Support Battalion out of Fort Knox, Ky. supplied rock walls, high-mobility vehicle simulators, and an exhibit that permitted fans to play "America's Army."
  - Units from Fort Hood, Texas demonstrated major combat systems like the Patriot Missile System, M1 Abrams Tank and the Apache Attack Helicopter.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash. showed off the new Stryker Armored Vehicle at Fan Fest and in one of the end zones during the game.
- **Game Participation** –
  - The Old Guard Continental Color Guard presented the American and Army flags.
  - Four Air Assault instructors from the 101<sup>st</sup> Air Assault Division, Fort Campbell, Ky., rappelled from the top of the Alamodome to centerfield to deliver the game football.
  - Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric K. Shinseki and Assistant Secretary of the Army Reginald Brown helped start the game by officiating the coin toss.
- **Army Sponsored Activities** – The U.S. Army sponsored several activities including competitions and dinner events for the football players throughout the week. In addition, the Army sponsored:
  - U.S. Army All-American Cheer Bowl
  - U.S. Army All-American Band Competition